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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/596,853	06/19/2000	Sho Kou	SONY-50N3456.01	4217

7590 02/27/2007
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EXAMINER

VU, NGOC K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/596,853

Applicant(s)

KOU, SHO

Examiner

Ngoc K. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 32-42 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-31 and 43-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/22/06 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/22/06 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 23-31 and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as follows.

Claim 23 embodies functional descriptive material. However, the claim does not provide a practical application that produces a useful, tangible, and concrete result, and is thus non-statutory for that reason. Any amendment to the claim should be commensurate with its corresponding disclosure.

Claims 43-46 are rejected under 35 USC 101 because the independent claim is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim embodies data structure which is considered a signal. Such "descriptive material" is not a process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter. Further this claim could also be considered non-functional descriptive material that is not embodied on a tangible computer readable medium.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by LaJoie et al. (U.S. 5, 850,218 A).

Regarding claim 43, LaJoie teaches a data structure (as shown in figure 5) for identifying requested information from a multimedia bit stream (e.g., channel selection), said data structure comprising:

a flag field for specifying an information type of said requested information (service type – see figure 5; col. 16, lines 42-45) , said information type comprising programming information; and

at least one attribute field for specifying an attribute of said requested information (parameter reference – see figure 5; col. 16, lines 35-41), said attribute identified by said information type from among a plurality of attributes associated with said attribute field, wherein each of said plurality of attributes is associated with a different type of information of said multimedia bit stream (e.g., video, music, VOD, NVOD); and

wherein said information type and attribute of said requested information identify a table of said multimedia bit stream comprising said requested information (parameter table – see figure 5).

Regarding claim 44, LaJoie teaches that said table comprises an event information table (see figure 5).

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Regarding claim 45, LaJoie teaches that wherein said at least one attribute field further comprises a table field for specifying a table identifier (e.g., video, split, music, NVOD, VOD parameter tables – see figure 5).

Regarding claim 46, LaJoie teaches that wherein said table identifier is operable to specify a cable virtual channel table (see col. 16, lines and 10-28; col. 11, lines 24-32).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 32-42 are allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the closest prior art, Ludtke (US 6,460,030) teaches method and system for searching through descriptive data in the AV/C protocol. Particularly, Ludtke's system comprises a control device 12 sending a search request in command structure to target device 220 as shown in figure 4A. Ludtke fails to teach or suggest the detail feature of the command as recited in claim 32.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc K. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-7306. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



NGOC K. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2623

February 22, 2007